

TAKING THE COWBOY HAT OFF THE MILITIA PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to take the cowboy hat off the militia problem that the Speaker tried to put on it this weekend on national television.

For any of you who were watching the Speaker this weekend on national television, he said, 'We have to understand there is in rural America, particularly in the West, a genuine fear of the Federal Government.' He added that this genuine fear seemed to be driving otherwise average Westerners into the Rocky Mountains to create some kind of a Rocky Mountain guerilla group or some such thing.

Well, I rise to say that is not true, that that is an extremist position in the West, and that we in the West are not encouraging that type of thing. I also find all of this very interesting, because I would be terribly surprised if the Speaker or any other Member of this body rose to talk about the genuine fear of the Crips and the Bloods or the genuine fear of the Members of the Aryan Nation, or the genuine fear of the Ku Klux Klan, or on and on and on. We would tell them all to grow up and get a life.

Now, what about these militias and what about the paranoid style of politics that has been practiced by some of these overgrown, overaged, GI Joes that appear to be rather on a lost patrol? Well, first of all, unfortunately, it is not a regional phenomenon. They are not all hunkered into the Rocky Mountains. The militia pup tents have raised their heads all over the country. They are in Georgia, they are in New York, they are in Michigan, they are in Montana, and, yes, unfortunately, they are in my State too. So let us not try and just put a cowboy hat on it. Let us deal with the fact that they are everywhere. Let us not romanticize this. Let us realize that this is not a genuine fear, this is ridiculous, and this is paranoid politics at its absolute worse.

The second part that comes into all of this is an attempt to try and draw some kind of a urban-rural, and therefore Western-Eastern, polarization on this. What I want to point out is the Rocky Mountain States are 71 percent urban. That may come as a surprise to people that Arizona is more urban than Ohio, and Nevada as urban as Pennsylvania. That even a hot topic of banning assault weapons that people often want to say is impossible to do in the West, when you poll, you find people in the Rocky Mountain States poll the same as any other State. So those kind of regional differences do not pan out.

Finally, the paranoid fear of government is an extremist position, and every one of us ought to say that. People who have a fear of government

should go to the ballot box and not their bullets. Ballots, not bullets, is the way to approach this government. I am very troubled when I hear people saying that we should accept this, pat people on the head, and not take it on.

I am especially surprised the Speaker has not done more to abuse the notion of this paranoia. I really hope that all of us in this body look at what we might be contributing to this kind of paranoia and ask if we are. As Pogo once said to us, we ought to look in the mirror and meet the enemy and find out if it is us.

I hope all of this regionalistic romanticism and everything else stops, and we start saying there is no reason to be paranoid about a democratic form of government.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. SCHROEDER. I yield to the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. WILLIAMS. As the gentlewoman knows, I represent Montana, all of it, the little bit of urban we have out there and the lot of rural we have. Like the gentlewoman, I, too, was watching television and heard Speaker GINGRICH make his latest in a series of wedge statements, in which he seemed to try to divide the West out as a place that was somewhat paranoid about the Federal Government. I do not know what part of the West our good Speaker was talking about, but he was not talking about Montana.

Montanans are frightened by the militia, not the Federal Government. Montanans are frightened by outlaws, not by those who would enforce the law at local, county, State and Federal levels. My Montanans, as with your constituents in Colorado and our colleagues and constituents throughout the West, recognize full well that the West, for the most part, has been a wonderful partner in having settled and developed the West. The Federal Government plumbed the West. We are, after all, a hydraulic society that insists on making the deserts flourish. It is the Federal Government that set out the Interstate Highway Systems and has done so much to help the economy of the West, and we appreciate the involvement of the Federal Government. We do not fear it.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Nor do we in Colorado.

SUDDENLY A CRISIS IN MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, suddenly the Republican leadership has discovered a crisis in the funding of Medicare, and they want to fix it. Well, they are not sure they want to fix it. They want the President to make a proposal to cut Medicare spending over the next decade. They want the Democrats in Congress to make a proposal to cut Medicare spending over the next dec-

ade. Maybe they want a bipartisan commission to make proposals to cut Medicare spending over the next decade.

The bottom line is they want someone to come out and get ahead of them and propose cuts in Medicare spending over the next decade, under the guise of saving Medicare from bankruptcy, a new crisis that no one could have anticipated a year ago during the health care debate. A year ago during the health care debate, we heard from Republican leaders on both sides of the Hill that there is no crisis in health care in America, none at all. We need no congressional action regarding health care. That was only 12 months ago.

More recently, we had the much vaunted Contract on America, which laid out the 10 most important issues confronting the United States of America, the 10 must-do pieces of legislation to bring our country into the next century. And you know what? Medicare was not on the list. I guess there was not a crisis in Medicare, or at least they did not know about it, when they were writing the contract.

Then we brought the contract to the floor again. Still, no mention of Medicare. We brought a dire emergency supplemental spending bill to the floor of the House; \$2.3 billion additional for the Pentagon, because you cannot ask the Pentagon to do anything without giving them more money. We add a few billions of dollars for the crisis in California, for the earthquakes and the floods and various and assorted sundry other things that Congress always throws in when we do a dire emergency supplemental spending bill, but not a penny for Medicare. I guess 2 months ago there was not a crisis in Medicare.

What has happened since is the Republican leadership in this House pushed through a bill cutting revenues, cutting taxes, by \$340 billion over the next 5 years. And guess what? Now they think we need to cut Medicare somewhere in the vicinity of \$300 billion. But there is no linkage. There is no linkage between the massive tax cuts which they shoved through this Chamber for the largest, most profitable corporations, for foreign and multinational corporations, for people earning \$200,000 a year, under the guise of some scant relief for middle income families and people with children. No, there was no crisis in Medicare then. But now there is.

Suddenly there is a crisis in Medicare that just happens to come close to the amount of money that is proposed in the massive tax cuts. The crisis has come now because they have sat down and tried to write their budget, and they found out you cannot hold the Pentagon harmless and in fact increase their spending, you cannot hold all of that massive part of the Federal budget harmless. You cannot deal with the existing debt and the interest payments, and you cannot cut taxes and

balance the budget. It just simply is not there.

So suddenly we have a crisis in Medicare that cries out for immediate action, for immediate cuts totaling 80 percent of the money they need to fund their tax cuts. No, the crisis is not so much in Medicare, and it is not a new crisis. In fact, Medicare, according to the trustees, is in better condition today than it was a year ago. They have put off its potential insolvency for 12 months into the next century.

No, the crisis is in the corporate board rooms. The crisis is in the country club cocktail lounges. The crisis is that the Republicans in their contract promised the most powerful and the most wealthy and the most well off Americans a nice, big, fat, juicy tax cut, and they promised everybody else in America they would balance the budget. And now they want to balance the budget on the backs of the seniors by cutting Medicare to fund their tax cuts.

Congress is going to say no to this outrage, this new abomination worse than the worst aspects of the first 100 days of this Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EWING] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are reminded during these days of the momentous occasion of the ending of conflict in Europe 50 years ago. As our thoughts go out in thanksgiving for the blessings of peace, we remember specially those members of our Armed Forces whose dedication and sacrifice brought new hope to so many people who had known destitution and suffering and death. We laud all those who labored for freedom and recall with praise their commitment and their allegiance to liberty. O gracious God, whose power created the Heavens and the Earth and whose grace is all about, may Your blessing be upon those who gave of themselves that others might live. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this vote will be postponed and the vote will be taken later today.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United States.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 103. An act entitled the "Lost Creek Land Exchange Act of 1995".

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. AKAKA as members of the Senate delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly Spring Meeting during the First Session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress, to be held in Budapest, Hungary, May 25-29, 1995.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276k of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. BINGAMAN as a member of the Senate delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group during the First Session of the

One Hundred Fourth Congress, to be held in Tucson, AZ, May 12-14, 1995.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. GRASSLEY and Mrs. HUTCHISON to the Senate delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the First Session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress, to be held in Huntsville, ON, Canada, May 18-22, 1995.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mrs. MURRAY as vice chairman of the Senate delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

AWOL

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as President Clinton goes to Moscow, he once again has dodged his responsibility.

This time, he has failed to exhibit any leadership when it comes to saving Medicare.

According to the Medicare Board of Trustees, a group which includes three members of the President's Cabinet, Medicare will go bankrupt by the year 2002.

Republicans are developing a plan which will protect, improve and preserve the Medicare system. We will do this by eliminating fraud and abuse, while slowing the explosive growth in costs.

Instead of joining with us in our reform efforts or offering solutions of his own, the President has gone AWOL. Yes, he is absent without leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want real leadership from their President.

They want us to take steps to save Medicare, not allow its costs to continue to skyrocket to the point of bankruptcy.

I urge the President to live up to his responsibilities and work with Congress to save Medicare.

REFORMING MEDICARE

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, anyone reading the paper or watching the news last week knows that Medicare is on the front line in the battles that lie ahead. Seniors are watching and what they see is troubling. Yes, we do need to reform Medicare—but there is a right way and a wrong way. Last year we had the chance to strengthen Medicare the right way—in the context of health